



## Irvington Union Free School District Reopening Plan Addendum

**April 2021**

### **Overview:**

The introduction of effective COVID-19 vaccines coupled with the availability of Rapid Antigen Tests have equipped the Irvington UFSD to be able to safely expand daily student attendance. Following a thorough process in which there was engagement from stakeholders, with support of the Board of Education, the Irvington UFSD planned to phase in a return to full, daily student attendance.

### **Community Engagement:**

The Irvington UFSD is committed to engaging its school community in critical decisions that affect its students. Initiating the consideration of returning students to full, daily attendance (all students having the opportunity to attend school five (5) days per week), the District facilitated two surveys to the parent community to assess the school communities risk tolerance associated with shifting classroom-based social distancing from six (6) to three (3) feet and installing NYSED-approved barriers on all student desks or tables. These surveys provided critical data that informed decision making that was spearheaded by the Superintendent of Schools and the Reopening Steering Committee. The survey results indicated that approximately 95% of the parent community was supportive of such an initiative.

In addition to the surveys, numerous other community-based communications occurred that were inclusive of the following: [Board of Education meetings](#), [written Weekly District Newsletters](#), [targeted communication on the initiative](#), and [weekly Facebook Live broadcasts](#). Additionally, the Reopening Steering Committee met on two occasions: February 21, 2021 and March 10, 2021.

**Reopening Steering Committee Membership:**

The following individuals serve on the Irvington UFSD Reopening Steering Committee and participated in the aforementioned meetings.

Name	Community Role
Kristopher Harrison	Superintendent of Schools
Mary Ellis	Interim Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Human Resources
Carol Stein	Assistant Superintendent for Business
Brian Friedman	President - Board of Education
David Graeber	1st Vice President - Board of Education
Michael Hanna	Trustee - Board of Education
Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski	Principal - Irvington High School
Matthew Samuelson	Assistant Principal - Irvington High School
David Sottile	Principal - Irvington Middle School
Joyce Chapnick	Principal - Main Street School
Andrea Kantor	Principal - Dows Lane Elementary School
Liza Wishney	Assistant Principal - Dows Lane Elementary School
Jay Strumwasser	Director of Technology

Gail Krieger	Director of PPS
Michele O'Bryan	Assistant Director of PPS
Gary Knowles	Facilities Director
Katherine Hough	District Medical Director
Elizabeth Bashe	Nurse - Irvington High School
Yvonne Halee	Nurse - Irvington Middle School
Virginia Diamond	Nurse - Main Street School
Bernadette Fleming	Nurse - Dows Lane Elementary School
James Groven	Teacher, President - IFA
Corinne Daniels	Teacher, Elementary School Vice President - IFA
Amy Falk	Teacher, Secondary School Vice President - IFA
Kim O'Connor	Teacher
Dympna Kenny	Co-President - PTSA
Delina Codey-Barrachin	Co-President - PTSA
Neerja Patel	Co-President - IEF
Venera Gianetto	Co-President - IEF
Sarah Harris Weiss	Parent
Francis Pignatelli	Irvington Chief of Police
Michael Toolan	Irvington Police - Detective
Gloria Estrada	Food Service Director - Aramark Food Services

**Phased-in Approach to Full, Daily Student Attendance:**

In an effort to implement a safe and operationally sound return to full daily student attendance, the Irvington UFSD devised a phased-in approach that prioritized students with special needs and restored full-day student attendance by school campus as outlined below.

	<b>ICT students</b>	<b>Flex Wednesdays Phase out</b>	<b>Full Attendance</b>
<b>Dows Lane</b>	February 8	March 17	March 22
<b>Main Street School</b>	February 8	March 24 - Cohort B to be in-person for am only	April 7
<b>IMS/IHS</b>	March 22 - all students with IEPs <u>in ICT classes</u> to attend 4 days per week until April 12	March 24 - Cohort B to be in person for am only (Early Dismissal schedule with shortened periods)  April 7 - Cohort A to be in person for am only (Early Dismissal schedule with shortened periods)	April 12
<b>100% Distance Learning will continue as an option in a <u>revised capacity</u>.</b>			

**Mitigation Efforts:**

In an effort to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the Irvington UFSD, the District will continue to employ all strategies outlined in the District’s Reopening Plan. However, the following modifications will be implemented:

- Social distancing in classrooms reduced from six (6) to three (3) feet;
- All student desks and tables will have NYSED approved barriers installed;

- Seating in the cafeteria will be continue to be six (6) feet without barriers;
- Supplemental dining spaces will be provided at each school as follows:
  - Dows Lane Elementary School: Gymnasium,
  - Main Street School: Auditorium, outdoors with the use of tents, and
  - Irvington Middle School and Irvington High School: Outdoors with the use of tents;
- Mask breaks will be provided outdoors only with appropriate social distancing;
- Parents will be encouraged to drive their children to school or have them walk rather than use school bus transportation to maintain low bus ridership; and
- Surveillance testing will be conducted on a semi-monthly basis.

The District will evaluate COVID-19 surveillance testing data on an on-going basis in accordance with the plan below. Additionally, the Superintendent of Schools will remain in communication with the Westchester County Department of Health, which as the local Health Department shall advise as to whether the District should take specific measures to modify this plan to provide for healthy school communities. As the Westchester County superintendents of schools meet with the Westchester County Department of Health on a weekly basis, the regularly scheduled meeting shall serve as an official vehicle for communications and decision making.

Should there be an increase in the prevalence of COVID-19 cases with the Irvington schools, the District is prepared to modify student attendance and either resume a hybrid model or transition to 100% to remote instruction if necessary. All students, teachers and staff are encouraged to be equipped for such a transition.

### **Surveillance Testing Plan:**

To understand the COVID-19 prevalence in the Irvington UFSD schools, the District will facilitate a surveillance testing program. The plan outlined below was developed in consultation with the District Medical Director and the Westchester County Department of Health.

## **Licensure, COVID-19 Test Selection and Administration**

The District will utilize the Westchester County Department of Health's (WCDOH) Limited Services Laboratory License # PFI: U631 CLIA# 33D0723201 to administer the tests.

The Abbot BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test will be utilized and will be sourced through the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through WCDOH distribution. These test kits will be provided free of charge to the Irvington UFSD.

To avoid disruptions to the surveillance testing program, the District has purchased 1,000 BinaxNOW test kits as a precautionary measure. Should these test be utilized, they will be administered by Mohawk Day Camp Laboratory License # PFI: Z031 CLIA# 33D21287344.

The tests will be administered by District staff members and the nursing staff of the Mohawk Day Camp Laboratory with whom the District has contracted. Individuals administering the BinaxNOW test have completed all necessary training.

## **Testing Methodology**

The District will facilitate surveillance testing semi-monthly. Every two weeks, 5% of the students and staff members who are physically present on school premises will be tested. This means that a total of 10% will be tested monthly.

## **Random Sampling**

Those tested will be required to have a consent form on file with the Irvington UFSD Office of the Superintendent. Utilizing excel, those for whom consent was received will be randomly selected and scheduled to attend a mandatory surveillance testing clinic. In all cases, individuals being tested will be provided with a testing appointment a minimum of 48 hours prior to the respective date.

## **Evaluation of Surveillance Testing Data**

The Superintendent of Schools and the District Medical Director will review surveillance testing results on a semi-monthly basis to evaluate the prevalence rates in the District and in each school. All testing data will be reported to the WCDOH and NYSDOH *on the specific date testing is completed.*

The District rate of prevalence will be compared to the Westchester County rate or the Village of Irvington rate, whichever is higher. If the Irvington rate is higher by 1% or more, the model of student attendance will be re-evaluated.

*Illustration:*

*If the prevalence rate for Westchester County is 4% and the Village of Irvington is 5%, the rate for Irvington will be applied. If the rate within the District or a single school was 6%, the District would implement measures to mitigate potential viral spread.*

In all such cases, the Medical Director and the WCDOH shall be consulted.

Depending on the level of prevalence, following consultation with the Medical Director and the WCDOH, the District may take the following steps to mitigate further spread of COVID-19:

- Direct specific classes of students to participate in 100% remote learning for 10 days;
- Direct specific grade levels of students to participate in 100% remote learning for 10 days;
- Direct specific schools to participate in 100% remote learning for 10 days;
- Direct the entire district to participate in 100% remote learning for 10 days; or
- Direct the entire District to attend in the District's hybrid model.

### **Reporting of COVID-19 Prevalence in the Irvington Schools**

The District will report all cases tested to the NYSDOH on the date of administration via the ECLRS. The district will also report all positive cases to the Westchester County Department of Health on the day of the positive test and include a copy of the Laboratory Reporting Form. Prevalence levels, therefore, will be reflected in the New York State COVID-19 Dashboard. Additionally, the District will report all relevant data to its school community via the weekly District newsletter and will post it on the District website, [www.IrvingtonSchools.org](http://www.IrvingtonSchools.org), on a semi-monthly basis.

Attachment: [Test Administration Protocols](#)

<sup>1</sup>Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 includes ongoing systematic activities, including collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related data that are essential to planning, implementing, and evaluating public health practice. Surveillance testing is generally used to monitor for a community- or population-level occurrence, such as an infectious disease outbreak, or to characterize the occurrence once detected, such as looking at the incidence and prevalence of the occurrence. Surveillance testing is used to gain information at a population level, rather than an individual level, and results of surveillance testing can be returned in aggregate to the requesting institution. Surveillance testing may sample a certain percentage of a specific population to monitor for increasing or decreasing prevalence and to determine the population effect from community interventions, such as social distancing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html>